

Sarah Greenblatt

Sarah Greenblatt spent many years with the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative welcomed Sarah B. Greenblatt to its staff as a senior associate director from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. She brought 30 years of experience in child welfare, working with a variety of public and private agencies and foundations on helping child welfare systems assure youth in foster care have stability and permanence in their lives.

"My expertise is in achieving permanence for youth, making sure that youth have the opportunity to build or rebuild family relationships to support them as they transition to adulthood and beyond," said Greenblatt. "I feel very honored to have this chance to work with the Jim Casey team. They are dedicated to getting this complex work right."

Greenblatt's role at the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative was to support sites as they improve outcomes for older youth and young adults leaving foster care. She joined the Initiative's efforts to assure that youth are engaged in their own case planning as well as the state's effort to make systems change. Greenblatt also believes that young people need to be helped to understand their past experiences so that they can begin to trust adults in their families and communities. "I am committed to broadening opportunities for youth to safely go back so they can move forward more successfully," she said.

Prior to this, Greenblatt worked with Casey Family Services to launch the former Casey Center for Effective Child Welfare Practice, which assisted public and private agencies to improve permanency practice and ultimately outcomes for young people in foster care. She also served as a lead organizer of two national youth permanency conventions.

Greenblatt began her career studying the child welfare practices and systems, concluding that it needed to move from protective services to supporting families and child development. Her work took her across the country as she helped states reform their child welfare practice, experience she believes will be valuable to Jim Casey sites. At the Hunter College School of Social Work, Greenblatt directed the National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning and was also an adjunct faculty member. She is currently an adjunct instructor for child welfare policy at Smith College School for Social Work.

My passion is figuring out how we help young people in transition have a variety of family and community supports needed to make it through the often traumatic transition from the child welfare system," said Greenblatt. "I'm excited to work with Jim Casey to bring these conversations to a deeper level."